



FLAG VOICE 185

TITLE 10 RESERVE MEMBER PER DIEM OVERPAYMENTS

It's come to my attention that we have a number of reservists in an overpayment status who were called to active duty under the title 10 involuntary recall. Some of you are already aware of the situation, but I felt it important to let everyone know about the issue. I'm not going to get into all the technical details here because they are complex and we're still trying to sort through them. So, here's the more simplified version. The overpayment in question resulted from these reservists receiving more per diem than authorized by the JFTR to pay for their hotel rooms while they served on active duty at a location distant from their normal station. The per diem overpayment occurred when they received per diem payments while taking annual leave accrued on active duty. The JFTR does not allow the payment of per diem while in a leave status. It doesn't matter that they were still paying for the same hotel room they were staying in during or going to return to after taking leave. Apparently, the reservists weren't counselled about this important regulation, and certainly, it wasn't the top issue on their mind in the heat of our immense recall effort. There is more, but I won't delve into it here.

Thus far, we've identified about 160 reservists in this unfortunate situation. We have about 5 reservists with a liability of over \$1,000. The vast majority, over 100, have a liability of less than \$200.

To date, this issue has been circulating at the staff level in a rather sequential fashion. Today, I established a tiger team to get our arms around all the issues, identify the full extent of the problem and lessons learned, and develop a reasonable course of action that will not penalize dedicated and well intended people. We are looking at the extent of our waiver authorities and ways to deal with the matter service-wide without running everyone through a bureaucratic knot hole.

More to follow.

Regards, Ken Venuto



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